

Student Oath Ratification at Mount Sinai

Craig L. Katz, M.D.

Director of Professional Development and Faculty Advisor in the Office for Student Affairs

Learning Communities Institute

September 28-30, 2018

Background

- Professional Development Advisory Group (2010)
- Found examples of other schools such as Rochester which had students develop their own student oath for White Coat Ceremony
- Our ***Art and Science of Medicine*** (“ASM”) course directors agrees to pilot this early in the first year in time for White Coat

Pilot (2012)

1. Introductory lecture on oaths and professionalism
2. Each of 18 small groups then meets for the first time with their preceptor to get an introduction to ASM
3. Review the current:
 - Code of Conduct (“the floor”)
 - Mount Sinai Student Oath (“the sky”)
4. Develop their own oath as a group
5. Email them to me
6. 18 representatives meet with me and develop a collective oath
7. Recite it at White Coat!

The Process since 2013

1. Introductory lecture on oaths and professionalism
2. Each of 18 small groups then meets for the first time with their preceptor to get an introduction to ASM
3. Review the current:
 - Code of Conduct (“the floor”)
 - Mount Sinai Student Oath (“the sky”)
 - **Prior class’s oaths**
4. **Develop their own ideal**
5. Email the ideal to me
6. 18 representatives meet with me and develop a collective oath
7. Recite it at White Coat!

The Ideal

“So, what “physicianly” ideal does your group aspire to?”

Can be a word, phrase, or a sentence

The Ideals List from Class of 2017

- I will be mindful of my personal well-being so that I may approach each patient with focus, commitment, and care.
- We strive to never be complacent; to value the privilege and power of studying medicine while acknowledging our limitations.
- I pledge to foster a supportive learning community to empower my patients, my peers, and myself.
- I will be driven to adapt to medicine.
- As a student of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, we commit ourselves to a career of lifelong learning and self-improvement in order to provide exceptional patient care.

The Ideals List from Class of 2017

- We strive to:
 - Maintain and contribute our unique voices while learning from the voices of others
 - Integrate ourselves with the Mount Sinai community and the larger healthcare community
 - Gain mastery of skills and knowledge
- - Retaining idealism
 - Being a guest in pt's lives is a gift
 - Service
- To be a positive force in the face of suffering, committed to developing an awareness of and determination to change whatever in me stands in the way of serving others.

The Ideals List from Class of 2017

- I will embrace medical school as a formative experience and opportunity for self-exploration, while striving to learn and provide service to others.
- Strive to explore my passions, define my priorities, and maintain my awareness of self
 - Be a diligent and respectful advocate for others in the local and global communities.
 - Admit fault.
- I will strive not only to provide a service, but also to prioritize my patients' wellbeing and care, which supersedes all other personal gains.
 - I will strive to continually advance my own knowledge and that of the medical community and its patients.
- I will be compassionate and mindful in my service and pledge to continually improve both myself and the field of medicine.

The Ideals List from Class of 2017

- I strive to uphold the values of integrity and compassion in all aspects of my medical career.
- We will continuously strive to have the humility to question ourselves, challenge our medical system, and understand our patients as people.
- We challenge ourselves to be ambitious and inquisitive yet humble physicians who strive to maintain respect for patients and all those who care for them.
- Recognizing that the patient is a free and independent person, that a person is by virtue complex and irreducible, and that a person must be viewed as more than the sum of many parts. I will strive to hold my patients in this regard and resist the tendency towards objectification."

The Ideals List from Class of 2017

(#17) I vow to practice with humility, recognizing the patient and my colleagues as a vital part of my ability to succeed in providing quality care.

The Student Oath of the Class of 2017

As we commence this transformative experience of becoming physicians, we strive to uphold the values of integrity and compassion in all aspects of our medical careers. We rise to meet the challenges of an evolving field of medicine, an evolving patient population, and an evolving self.

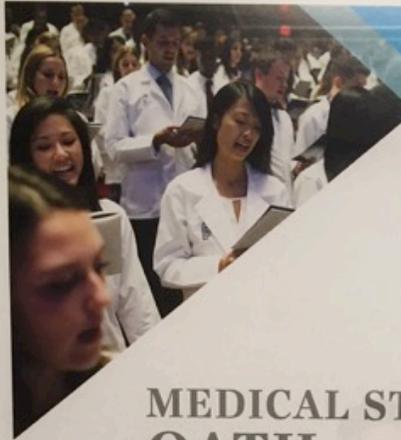
The Student Oath of the Class of 2017

Together we pledge the following:

- I will always remember that it is an honor to treat patients.*
- I will value the privilege and power of studying medicine while acknowledging my limitations.*
- I will foster a supportive learning community to empower my patients, my peers, and myself.*
- I will be attentive to my personal well-being so that I approach each patient with mindfulness, sincerity, and care.*
- I will be a diligent and respectful advocate for others in local and global communities.*
- I will commit myself to a career of lifelong learning.*

The Student Oath of the Class of 2017

Finally, I strive to never be complacent - to have the humility to question myself, to challenge the medical system, and to understand my patients as people. As I allow myself to be shaped by the voices of others, I will remain true to my own voice.



MEDICAL STUDENT OATH

CLASS OF 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2016

We recognize that practicing medicine is a sacred privilege. Therefore, with reverence for our patients and teachers, we, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Class of 2020, commit:

- To promote a culture of wellness and mindfulness for ourselves, our peers, and the communities we serve;
- To be humble agents of change in the pursuit of equitable care;
- To actively challenge discrimination at large and bias within ourselves;
- To reflect upon our own limitations, and those of the medical tradition, using them as catalysts for learning and progress;
- To bring a mindful presence to each patient encounter;
- To collaborate with patients, colleagues, and communities to foster mutual understanding and education;
- To empower patients to be partners in their own care, and
- To approach our patients holistically with love, empathy, and respect for their individual strengths and vulnerabilities.

In the spirit of curiosity and with a passion for service, we enthusiastically accept these responsibilities.

Class of 2020 Oath



We recognize that practicing medicine is a sacred privilege. Therefore, with reverence for our patients and teachers, we, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Class of 2020, commit:

- To promote a culture of wellness and mindfulness for ourselves, our peers, and the communities we serve;
- To be humble agents of change in the pursuit of equitable care;
- To actively challenge discrimination at large and bias within ourselves;
- To reflect upon our own limitations, and those of the medical tradition, using them as catalysts for learning and progress;
- To bring a mindful presence to each patient encounter;
- To collaborate with patients, colleagues, and communities to foster mutual understanding and education;
- To empower patients to be partners in their own care; and
- To approach our patients holistically with love, empathy, and respect for their individual strengths and vulnerabilities.

In the spirit of curiosity and with a passion for service, we enthusiastically accept these responsibilities.

Observations/Lessons Learned

- Appoint a scribe
- “Clump” ideals into categories (i.e., wellness, advocacy) and then consolidate
- Common stylistic decision points:
 - Preamble?
 - First person singular or plural?
 - Better to sound good or read well?
- Be sure to read versions aloud as part of editing
- Put a hard stop on how much time is allotted

Professional Oath Ratification

- The “bookend”
- Time to reflect back and think forward

Observations: Professional Oath Ratification

- Not as simple to get buy in as with the student oath
- Some students simply wanted a classic oath such as the modern Hippocratic Oath, the modern Oath of Maimonides, or Declaration of Geneva
- Others wish to modify one of these oaths
- Little appetite for creating an oath de novo
- We let each group submit the oath they want and then let the entire class vote (this year's winner= **Modified Modern Hippocratic Oath**)
- Don't do this the day before the Match

Modifications to the Hippocratic Oath

- *I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, **empathy**, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.*
- *I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a **fellow [deleted: sick]** human being whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability.*
- ***Deleted:** Above all, I must not play at god.*

Your turn.....!